
HOW BEING AT PEACE WITH GOD CHANGES EVERYTHING

THE PASSAGE

Romans 5:1-10

HOW PEACE WITH GOD CHANGES EVERYTHING

- (1) A new **IDENTITY**

John 1:12-13 Romans 8:15-17

- (2) A new **DESTINY**

1 John 3:2 Romans 8:17 2 Timothy 2:12 Daniel 7:18 1 Corinthians 6:2-3

- (3) A new view of **SUFFERING**

Romans 5:3-5 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 & 2 Corinthians 11:23-29

WHAT TO DO WHEN ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE

- (1) Don't be **SURPRISED**.

John 16:33 2 Timothy 3:12 & 1 Peter 4:12-13 1 Peter 1:6-7 & Hebrews 5:8

- (2) If you can, **RUN FROM** it. If you can't, **EMBRACE** it.

Matthew 26:36-46 Acts 12:1-17 Acts 9:23-25, 22:22-29 & Romans 15:30-31

- (3) Rejoice **IN** it, not **FOR** it.

Romans 5:3-5 1 Thessalonians 4:13 1 Thessalonians 5:18 & 1 Corinthians 10:6-10

- (4) Let it **SHAPE** you. But don't let it **DEFINE** you.

1 Corinthians 10:13 Romans 5:3-5 & James 1:2-4 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Hebrews 4:15

Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 26, 2017

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. When it comes to suffering, we were encouraged to run from it if we can and if that doesn't work, embrace it. Can you think of any life trials you were tempted to run from? If you were to take one of the trials you didn't embrace, what would it look like to embrace it?

2. This weekend we heard God doesn't cause our suffering but he can use it. Can you think of any times God has used a negative experience you went through in a positive way?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Larry mentioned our relationship with God brings a different view of suffering and pointed to the refinement process that happens to us through our suffering. As we go through the refinement process listed in Romans 5:3-4, we see important steps for how we're to be refined. How do the following verses expand our understanding of how God refines us through suffering?

Romans 5:3-4 *New International Version (NIV)*

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁴ Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

⁵ All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

James 1:1-2 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

Greetings.

Trials and Temptations

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

James 1:12 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

1 Peter 1:6-7 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Can you think of any ways God's refinement process has played out in your own life?

2. Many of us didn't grow up hearing biblical stories about suffering or sermons on the topic. Because of this it can be difficult to follow Jesus and still experience hardship, challenges or loss. It's important to remember, when we suffer and are challenged, we still get to choose how we respond to our circumstances. How did the people in the following verses respond to Jesus in the midst of their challenges in a way that could also help us respond to Jesus in our trials today?

John 4:4-42 *(Please reference your Bible)*

Mark 5:25-34 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹ "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

How might the women have responded to Jesus if they had let their circumstances define them?

Can you think of any ways you let your circumstances define you if you're not careful?

3. It can be humbling when we realize Jesus takes us, flaws and all and gives us a new identity. This truth impacts everyone differently but could be hard to embrace if you feel undeserving. How could the following verses help someone who is struggling to embrace their new identity in Christ?

Galatians 2:20 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 *New International Version (NIV)*

²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

1 John 5:1-5 *New International Version (NIV)*

Faith in the Incarnate Son of God

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Which of these verses is most meaningful to you and why?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Are there any trying circumstances in your life you'd like to have a better attitude about? Any areas where you could pray for God to use your trials for his glory?

2. Looking back over this week's sermon and homework, what's the most important thing for you to remember?

Praise/Prayer Requests:

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·4 landscape contractors ·13 carpenters ·2 roofers ·1 concrete mason ·2 asphalt installers ·1 glazier ·1
welder ·1 fence builder ·10 muralists

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